

# North Dakota Oilfield Employment

Information and resources to help you search for a job in North Dakota's oilfields.

#### INTRODUCTION

North Dakota's strong economy, low unemployment rate and booming oil industry continue to draw interest from all across the country. Finding employment in the oil patch is an attractive prospect for many – and one that may requires extra effort and due diligence on the part of the job seeker.

Job Service North Dakota wants to make your search for an oilfield job a positive one. This booklet will give you tidbits of information to help you get started on the right foot. Find out about horizontal drilling, types of oilfield jobs and related terminology, links to helpful resources, and most importantly, how to search for an oilfield job on jobsnd.com.

#### HAVE A PLAN

It's important to have a plan in place when searching for a job, and this holds true for jobs in North Dakota's booming oil industry as well. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Have a place to stay before heading to the oil patch. Rapid growth in areas near the oil patch has put a pinch on housing.
- Schedule interviews in advance rather than walking off the street and expecting to get an interview on the spot.
- Allow time for the hiring process it may take longer than you expect.
- Follow oil companies' instructions for applying for jobs.
- Plan ahead, be prepared and research your options thoroughly.

Best of luck in your job search!

#### **DRILLING BASICS**

It may help in your job search if you know some basics about *horizontal* oil well drilling and maintenance. There are two main processes. The front end of the operation is the drilling process. The first step is setting up the drilling rig and getting the hole drilled, pipes installed, and cement casing around the pipes. While the hole is being drilled, *mudloggers* take regular samples of the mud that comes out and the site geologist determines and verifies that the drilling is being done in the right location underground.

The second step is to do *fracing (pronounced fracking)* once the pipes and cement casing is installed. This process involves using explosive 'wireline' cable to begin the process of opening up the surrounding rock so that the oil can leak out into the pipes. *Fracing crews* then pump in sand/water solutions to further expand these channels so oil will flow into the pipes.

Once the fracing is done and the oil is flowing, a pumping unit is attached to the well head to extract the oil and channel it into storge tanks. At this point, the drilling rig crews, wireline operators, and fracing crews all move on to the next well site. The entire process usually takes a month or less if everything goes right.

Watch the drilling process for yourself at <a href="http://www.northernoil.com/drilling.php">http://www.northernoil.com/drilling.php</a>.

Once a well is up and running, the *workover crew* comes in and maintains the well, troubleshoots any problems, and builds and removes structures as needed. Workover crew positions are generally long-term jobs since wells have a 30-year life expectancy.



## How to Look Up Oilfield Jobs on jobsnd.com.

To view the list of currently available oilfield jobs, follow these steps:

#### Step 1.

Log on to www.jobsnd.com, and click on the link "Find a Job."

## Search for jobs Find a job, create a resume and more Start now Business Resources Individuals Business Resources Find a job Unerplayment Tai More \*\* Resources Find an office Labor Nariest for Will an office Labor Nariest for More \*\* Resources Find an office Labor Nariest for More \*\*

#### Step 2.

Click on the "Not Registered?" button to create a username and password. Registration is important as only registered users will be allowed to view the how to apply instructions for each job listing.

Note: If you are already registered, enter your username and password, then click on the "Sign In" button.

#### Step 3.

For the search area, choose the "State" option. In the Keyword box, type in the word "oilfield." Press "Enter" on the keyboard or click the "Search" button at the bottom of the computer screen.

#### Step 4.

Using the search criteria listed above, a list of current oilfield openings will be displayed. To view more information on any of these listings, click on the job title.

#### Step 5.

If you find a job that you would like to apply for, you will need to go to the bottom of the job description and click on the "Apply for this Job" button. Doing so will take you to a new screen that contains additional application instructions as well as the application options available.







Additiona	Application Information
Call 701	or mail resume directly to employer.
Telephon	e The Employer
the position y	r requests you call their office for an appointment. When calling you should identify you are applying for by the job title listed above. Click on the button to get the hone number information.
For Teleph	Apply via Telephone

For more information, contact any of the Job Service offices listed below.

Williston Job Service 1-800-247-0989
Minot Job Service 1-800-482-0017
Dickinson Job Service 1-800-247-0983
TTY 1-800-366-6888

### SEARCHING FOR OILFIELD JOBS Examples

#### To search for entry-level oilfield jobs:

- 1. Log in to jobsnd.com.
- 2. Click on **Job Search** on the left side of the page.
- 3. Click on the Advanced Job Search tab.
- 4. Switch Area: Select State from the dropdown options.
- 5. Scroll down to the section called Job Keyword Criteria.
  - Find jobs that have All these words: enter oilfield.
- 6. Scroll down to the section called General Job Order Criteria.
  - Job Experience in month(s): enter 0.
- 7. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on **Search.**

**To search by defining the** *type of driver's license* **required:** (For example, if you have a regular driver's license, but not a CDL, you can narrow the search by excluding jobs that require a CDL.)

- 1. Follow Steps 1-6 in entry-level oilfield search above.
- 2. Scroll down to the section called Preferred Job Order Criteria.
  - **Job Requires Drivers License?**: select **Yes**, **Operator License** from the dropdown options (or whatever your driving privileges may be).

#### To search a specific area in the oil patch (Minot, Dickinson, or Williston):

- 1. Log in to jobsnd.com.
- 2. Click on **Job Search** on the left side of the page.
- 3. Click on the Quick Job Search tab.
- 4. Switch Area.
- 5. Select **ZIP Code** from the dropdown choices by **Choose Area Type.**
- 6. Enter the zip code for the area you are interested in: **58601 (Dickinson)**, **58701 (Minot)**, or **58801 (Williston)**.
- 7. Click the radio button for **50 Miles**.
- 8. In the Keyword area, enter oilfield.
- 9. Scroll to the bottom and click on Search.

The Job Service North Dakota website, <u>jobsnd.com</u>, is the single largest source for oilfield job openings in North Dakota. These sites also list job openings or information:

www.ndoiljobs.com www.midwestoiljobs.com www.willistonlife.com www.rigzone.com www.rockinthebakken.com

#### **OILFIELD OCCUPATIONS**

You will find several different types of oilfield jobs described below. For more information go to <a href="https://www.oilfieldworkers.com/careers.php">www.oilfieldworkers.com/careers.php</a>, scroll down to "Oil Industry Job Descriptions" and click on "Drilling Rig Jobs" and "Transport Jobs."

#### The following details apply to most oilfield positions:

- Most positions are labor intensive and involve outdoor work in all weather conditions.
- Minimum age restrictions may be 18 or 21 years old.
- A Drug testing is required in the hiring process and performed randomly on the job.
- A Depending on the position, you may need a valid driver's license with a clean driving record.
- At a minimum, you will need transportation to get to and from your job site.
- A Significant overtime hours may be available.
- Most companies will not hire individuals with a felony conviction within at least the past 5 years.
- A Housing may be difficult to find. Ask the potential employer if they offer housing assistance.
- A Be flexible in your expectations of the job schedule. You need to work the schedule that is best for the *company's* needs, not your own. As you gain experience, you may be in a better position for other scheduling options, either with your current company or a new company.

**Derrick Hand:** The crew member who handles the upper end of the drill string as it is being hoisted out of or lowered into the hole. The derrick hand may be responsible for the circulating machinery and the conditioning of the drilling or workover fluid and is usually next in line of authority under the driller. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq8WDdrDevA

**Driller:** The employee normally in charge of a specific (tour) drilling or workover crew. The driller's main duty is operation of the drilling and hoisting equipment, but may also be responsible for the downhole condition of the well, operation of downhole tools, and pipe measurements. The driller is directly in charge of a particular crew. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGN0hMhPJ7w

**Drilling Foreman:** Person usually in charge of a number of rigs, and is sometimes the operator's (oil company's) representative.

**Floor Hand:** A drilling or workover rig worker, subordinate to the driller, whose primary work station is on the rig floor. Sometimes called **roustabout** or **laborer**. Floor hands typically work long, hard days (very physical). Duties may include assembling or repairing oilfield equipment using hand and power tools, assisting in slotting, welding and inserting casing screens, assisting with well development and pumping tests, carrying out minor maintenance and repairs including lubrication, cleaning equipment, drilling and camp sites, digging and cleaning mud pits and drains, helping move drilling rigs and equipment from site to site, and more.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz-2jb-

8uuU&feature=PlayList&p=F03F1EF6C7993F35&playnext\_from=PL&playnext=1&index=11

Land Survey Field Assistant: A land survey field assistant is a member of a team that determines precise boundaries of land parcels, airspaces and water sites. Construction, transport and communications-mapping industries rely on this data which provides the legal boundaries for land ownership and political districts. A land surveyor field assistant uses telescopic and trigonometric

instruments to gather measurements on, above, and below the earth's surface that are later analyzed to determine borders.

**Motor Hand:** Employee involved in the proper maintenance and repair of the engines of the drilling rig and other motorized drilling rig equipment.

Pipe Layer: Lays 10" irrigation pipe and does water transfer/pumping water to frac tanks.

**Shop Hand:** Cleans the shop and trucks, moves and operates equipment and vehicles as needed, and helps with truck and equipment maintenance.

**Stabber:** A rig hand who, during the running of casing or tubing, stands on the tubing board high in the derrick and guides the pipe into position so the threaded end can be set in the collar and made up by floor hands using tongs. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVmq61f5lfM

**Swamper:** Typically the helper of the more experienced person. A swamper spends a lot of time loading and unloading trucks. This person transports construction and plant equipment and materials (including pipe and living quarters for camps) on highway; moves equipment and supplies off highway; moves overweight or over dimensional loads; and dismantles, transports and assembles drilling and service rigs.

**Truck Driver:** Operates various types of transports, including water trucks, fuel trucks, gravel trucks, string trucks, vacuum trucks, high boys/low boys. Truck drivers are required during every stage of the construction project. Truck drivers are responsible for operating the truck in a safe and efficient manner and generally require a Class A CDL with as many endorsements as possible.

Wireline Operator/Field Engineer: Assist experienced crew members in running wireline operations in the field. Driving wireline trucks and cranes to and cleaning and maintaining the trucks and equipment. Supervise and perform wireline operations in the field as well as supervise and perform maintenance of all the trucks and equipment from well site locations. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbSTdvMyMNk&feature=related

#### **OILFIELD TERMS**

Barrel: A U.S. measure of volume for petroleum products. One barrel is equivalent to 42 U.S. gallons.

**Casing:** Steel pipe threaded together and cemented into a well as drilling progresses to prevent the wall of the hole from caving in during drilling; provides a means of extracting oil and gas if well is productive.

**Derrick:** An oil derrick is used over oil wells. A derrick is a lifting device composed of one mast or pole which is hinged freely at the bottom. It is controlled by lines (usually four of them) powered by some means such as man-hauling or motors, so that the pole can move in all four directions. A line runs up the derrick and over its top with a hook on the end.

**Doghouse:** Small house located on the rig floor or nearby that is used as an office for the driller.

**Fish:** Anything left in a wellbore such as junk metal, a hand tool, etc.

**Fishing Tools**: A general term for special mechanical devices used to aid the recovery of equipment (fish) lost downhole.

**Fracturing:** ("fracing", pronounced fracking) The process of applying hydraulic pressure to an oil or gas bearing geological formation to crack the formation and stimulate the release of oil and gas.

**Horizontal Drilling:** The drilling of an oil or natural gas well at an angle to the vertical, so the well runs parallel to the formation containing the oil or gas. Production from the resulting well, known as a horizontal hole, is often three to five times greater than that from a vertically drilled well.

**Mud:** A term that is generally synonymous with drilling fluid and that encompasses most fluids used in hydrocarbon drilling operations, especially fluids that contain significant amounts of suspended solids, emulsified water or oil.

**Shale Shaker:** The primary and probably most important device on the rig for removing drilled solids from the mud. This vibrating sieve is simple in concept, but a bit more complicated to use efficiently.

**Swabbing:** An operation using a swab to bring well fluids to the surface when the well does not flow naturally.

**Whipstocking A Well:** A long steel casing that uses an inclined plane to cause the bit to deflect from the original borehole at a slight angle. Whipstocks are sometimes used in controlled directional drilling, in straightening crooked boreholes, and in sidetracking to avoid unretrieved fish.

**Wild Cat:** Well drilled in unproved territory.

For an extensive list of oilfield definitions, go to http://www.glossary.oilfield.slb.com/Search.cfm

#### **HELPFUL WEBSITES**

#### NORTH DAKOTA

Job Service North Dakota – <u>jobsnd.com</u> Locations around the state to serve you better.

North Dakota State Government – www.nd.gov

North Dakota Department of Commerce – www.experience.nd.gov,

North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources – www.dmr.nd.gov

North Dakota Petroleum Council – www.ndoil.org

#### **DICKINSON**

City of Dickinson – www.dickinsonnd.com

Dickinson Convention and Visitors Bureau - www.visitdickinson.com\*

72 East Museum Drive Dickinson, ND 58601 Phone: 800-279-7391

\*Find weekly hotel and motel room availability at bottom of visitors home page.

Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce – www.dickinsonchamber.org

314 3rd Avenue West

PO Box C

Dickinson, ND 58601 Phone: 701-225-5115 Fax: 701-225-5116

#### MINOT

City of Minot – www.minotnd.org

Minot Area Chamber of Commerce – www.minotchamber.org

1020 20th Avenue Southwest

PO Box 940 Minot, ND 58702

Phone: 701-852-6000 Fax: 701-838-2488

Minot Convention and Visitors Bureau - www.visitminot.org

1020 South Broadway

PO Box 2066

Minot, ND 58702

Phone: 701-857-8206 or 800-264-2626

Fax: 701-857-8228

#### **WILLISTON**

City of Williston - www.cityofwilliston.com

Williston Area Chamber of Commerce - www.willistonchamber.net

10 Main Street PO Box G

Williston ND 58802

Phone: 701-577-6000 Fax: 701-577-8591

Williston Convention and Visitors Bureau - www.visitwilliston.com

212 Airport Road Williston ND 58801

Phone: 701-774-9041

800-615-9041

Williston Economic Development – <a href="https://www.willistondevelopment.com">www.willistondevelopment.com</a>

Relocation Guide - www.willistonnd.com/relocation/RelocationGuide.pdf

Williston Life - www.willistonlife.com

#### HOUSING OPTIONS

#### **CURRENT HOUSING OPTIONS:**

**Target Logistics** – <u>Target Logistics</u> provides generally shorter-term housing at mancamps near Williston, Stanley, and Tioga. You do not need to be an oilfield worker to live at a mancamp.

You can apply to work at a Target Logistics mancamp (cooks, dining room/kitchen help, housekeepers) by emailing a completed company application to either <a href="mailto:pgeorgopoulos@targetlogistics.net">pgeorgopoulos@targetlogistics.net</a> or <a href="mailto:ghauck@targetlogistics.net">ghauck@targetlogistics.net</a>. Company applications can be printed from <a href="mailto:http://targetlogistics.net/1">http://targetlogistics.net/1</a> pdfs/employment application.pdf.

**ATCO** – Operates ATCO Lodge Williston. This housing option has about 200 rooms and is operated by ATCO Structures & Logistics, <a href="http://www.atcosl.com/en-ca">http://www.atcosl.com/en-ca</a>. Rates include 3 meals per day and free laundry facilities. ATCO Lodge Williston is located 2.5 miles north of the Williston airport. The address is 5564 Hwy 85, PO Box 6203, Williston, ND 58802-6203. Call reception at 701-572-5250 or reservations at 403-292-7775. If you would like to work at a mancamp, go to <a href="https://www.ATCOcareers.com">www.ATCOcareers.com</a>, choose *Career Opportunities*, *By Company*, and *ATCO Structures & Logistics* for current openings.

#### **PENDING HOUSING OPTIONS:**

#### CAPITAL OIL FIELD SERVICES - Excerpts from the Williston Herald - June 15, 2011

A temporary housing facility that could house up to 2,500 people was given approval by the Williams County Commission. The proposed camp was brought forward by Capital Oil Field Services of Round Rock, Texas. The Capital Riggers Lodge would be located off of U.S. Highway 2 in West Bank Township, across the street from the current Target Logistics facility near Tioga. "The complex will be manufactured housing and will include laundry services, television room, internet cafe, full kitchen, entertainment area and exercise facility," according to the Williams County Planning and Zoning Administrator. A Capital Oil Field Services representative said there would be 24 hour on-site security as well as strictly-enforced house rules that prohibit alcohol and firearms.

#### ANNABELLE HOMES - Excerpts from the Minot Daily News - April 13, 2011

A Minneapolis developer plans to construct 53 homes and retail and office buildings along U.S. Highway 2 in Stanley this year. The project includes a 12,000-square-foot retail building. Behind the retail buildings will be 25 townhomes and 28 single-family houses. Prices will begin about \$115,000 and go up to around \$190,000. Annabelle Homes will provide financing. The houses will be designed as "smart homes," capable of using the latest home technology and communication systems.

Annabelle Homes contracted with Bundled Builder Solutions, a subsidiary of Dynamic Ventures Corp. of Scottsdale, Ariz., to construct the development. About 50 construction workers will be on site from May 1 until the expected completion date around September 2011. Annabelle Homes is considering projects in several other North Dakota cities.

#### Black Gold Williston Lodge WWW.BLACKGOLDMANCAMPS.COM

This company is in the process of building a 374-bed housing facility.

**OTHER** – When interviewing with an employer, ask if they help with housing. If you plan to bring a camper, you will want to call ahead to check if space is available. Campgrounds in Williston are Buffalo Trails Campground (701-572-3206) or Prairie Acres (701-572-4860); in Minot KOA Kampground (701-839-7400); and selections in Dickinson are Camp on the Heart (701-225-9600), North Park (701-227-8498), or Patterson Lake Recreation Area (701-456-2074 or 2056). For more campground or RV park locations, you will want to use a search engine (such as <a href="www.google.com">www.google.com</a> or <a href="www.google.com">www.google.com

#### JOB SERVICE OFFICES IN THE OIL PATCH:

Dickinson Job Service (Located in Stark County) 66 Osborn Drive Dickinson ND 58601 701-227-3100

Minot Job Service (Located in Ward County) 3416 N Broadway Minot ND 58703 701-857-7500

Williston Job Service (Located in Williams County) 422 1<sup>st</sup> Ave W Williston ND 58801 701-774-7900

